

SPSV

GRANTS SPECIAL EDITION

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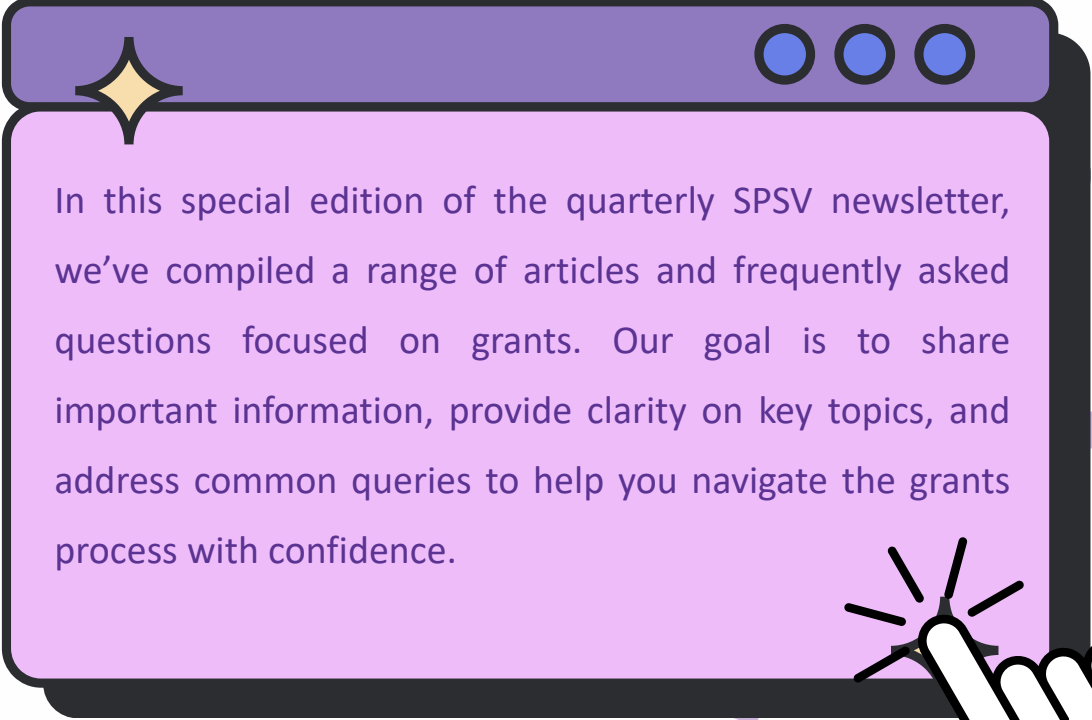


**Thinking of Applying for an
SPSV Grant?**

**2026 SPSV Grant
Updates**

**Christmas & New Years
Opening Hours**

Section 1: Thinking of Applying for an SPSV Grant?



In this special edition of the quarterly SPSV newsletter, we've compiled a range of articles and frequently asked questions focused on grants. Our goal is to share important information, provide clarity on key topics, and address common queries to help you navigate the grants process with confidence.



What is a grant?

A grant is a sum of money provided to support a specific goal, such as growing the accessibility of the SPSV fleet (the WAV Grant Scheme) or making it more sustainable and reducing the harmful effect of pollution (the eSPSV Grant Scheme).

Key Features of a Grant

- Non-repayable: Unlike loans, you don't pay it back as long as you continue to meet the conditions.
- Conditional: You must use it for the intended purpose (e.g., buying an accessible or electric vehicle for SPSV use).
- Application Process: Usually requires proof of eligibility and compliance with guidelines.

It is very important to note that grants **should never be considered an entitlement**; grant schemes offer an opportunity to apply for support, they do not offer certainty for success.



How do I find out if I'm eligible for a grant?

For NTA administered grants, two documents are usually published alongside each grant. They are the Information Guide and the Terms and Conditions. Between these documents, you can see what the NTA requires you to have and do in order to:

A) Make a valid application – your online application will not be accepted if you don't supply the necessary information

B) Pass the application requirements – the NTA may need to undertake further checks on your application to ensure you meet all the requirements. If you do not, e.g. if you have a recent prosecution upheld against you, your application will be rejected

C) Receive a grant – you may have to complete further forms to progress and complete your grant application. These may need to be done within a set period of time. If you are late, your grant offer may be taken back and given to the next applicant

D) Retain the grant in full – retention of your grant may be dependent on you complying with a number of requirements, such as using the grant aided vehicle as an SPSV for a specified period of time. If you do not, the NTA will contact you, setting out the amount of grant you must repay



What are my chances of getting a grant?

The NTA SPSV Grant Schemes have proven very popular in recent years, indicating strong interest from people wishing to join and remain in the SPSV sector. As a result of the popularity of the Schemes, some applicants will not be successful in receiving a grant offer, even if they make a valid application.

Since you may not be successful, grants should not be relied upon for your vehicle financing or long term business planning needs.

Further information on how the NTA manages the Schemes to support applicants and the sector is provided below.



Why might a grant application portal close?



For many grants, the demand from applicants can be lower than the amount of grant money on offer. In these cases, the grant can remain open all year for applications. Where a grant is in demand however, the number of applications can exceed the amount of grant money on offer, causing the application portal to close.



Why might a grant application portal reopen?

This happens when some applicants who received an offer earlier in the year decide not to complete their grant application, freeing up that money for others to apply for. For NTA SPSV grant schemes, a large number of applications are received, but the majority of applicants do not progress with their application. When the NTA knows it has grant money available later in the year, it can reopen the grant to new applications.



OPEN



CLOSE



Who gets a grant?

The majority of grant schemes applications are assessed on a first come first served basis. This means that the earlier you apply, the more likely you are to receive an offer, as funding can be expected to be available. Due to the popularity of some of the NTA SPSV grant schemes, this approach is no longer appropriate, and a lottery approach has been introduced. If you apply to a grant scheme where the offers are issued on a lottery basis, this means that everyone has the same chance of receiving a grant offer, no matter when they applied.



Avoidable Errors

Filling out paperwork can be difficult at the best of times! When processing grants, we often come across common, but very avoidable errors that we would like to remind applicants about to avoid issues with their applications.

Double-Check Your Personal Numbers

Make sure you enter the right details in the right place on forms you fill out:

Your Vehicle Licence Number is typically in the format of a Letter and five random digits (A12345)

Your Driver Licence Number is typically in the format of a random letter and four random digits. (A1234)

Your CCSN is typically in the format of your initials and five numbers (AB00001)

Your vehicle registration number is your licence plate; it is in the format of your vehicle's registration year the initials of its county of registration and the sequence of its registration (271-D-999)

Applicants often mix up CCSN, PPSN, Driver Licence Number, and Vehicle Licence Number. Accuracy matters; without the correct information we cannot process applications.

**For eSPSV:
Sign the Grant Offer Letter
Correctly**

Read the instructions carefully and take your time. Only complete the sections that apply to you. Incorrect or incomplete forms can cause serious delays. If you're unsure, don't hesitate to ask for help.

Confirm You're Tax Clear

If you are not tax clear, the application portal will not allow you to complete a grant application. To avoid this, check your tax status before applying. Instructions on how to do so may be found on Revenue.ie ([How to verify tax clearance status](#)). Being tax clear at the time of application is essential to avoid disappointment.

**Choose the Correct Vehicle
Type**

If you're applying for a new Vehicle Licence (VL) to be grant aided, make sure the vehicle meets the requirements. For example, saloon taxis and hackneys cannot be licensed as a new VL. Please check before you apply.

The Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Grant Scheme

The Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Grant Scheme was introduced to make taxi and hackney services more accessible for passengers with disabilities. While all standard taxis and hackneys can carry a folded wheelchair in the boot, only specially adapted vehicles can transport passengers who remain in their wheelchair during the journey.

Because converting or purchasing a wheelchair-accessible vehicle can be expensive, the grant helps offset these expenses. By providing financial support, the scheme encourages more operators to offer accessible services, improving transport equity and meeting national accessibility requirements.

New Vehicle licences are only available for WAVs, limousines, and local area hackneys. Demand for entry into the SPSV industry is high, and so is competition for grants. While funding for the WAV Grant Scheme has grown annually, it remains limited.

Why WAVs Matter

Wheelchair-accessible vehicles are designed with features that make travel safer and more comfortable for people with mobility challenges. These include:

- Lower floors and ramps for easier entry and exit.
- Spacious interiors to accommodate wheelchairs without compromising passenger comfort.
- Secure restraint systems to keep wheelchairs stable during the journey.
- Smooth suspension and ride quality, reducing discomfort for passengers with joint or muscle pain.

These enhancements ensure that passengers with reduced mobility can travel with dignity, safety, and ease.

eSPSV Grant Scheme

The Electric Small Public Service Vehicle (eSPSV) Grant Scheme, administered by the NTA and funded by the Department of Transport, was introduced in 2018 to support the transition of Ireland's taxi and hackney fleet to electric vehicles.

The primary aim of the scheme is to green the national SPSV fleet, reduce emissions, and improve air quality by promoting the use of more sustainable vehicles for public transport.



Why switch to an eSPSV?

Making the move to an electric vehicle (EV) is a smart choice for both your business and the environment. EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions, helping to reduce air pollution and cut Ireland's dependence on fossil fuels.

EVs offer significant financial benefits. They cost less to run and maintain than petrol or diesel vehicles, thanks to lower fuel expenses and fewer mechanical issues and government tax incentives and purchase grants like the eSPSV scheme reduce up front costs.

Use the SEAI EV Journey Cost Calculator to estimate fuel savings and their comparison tool to weigh electric, petrol, and diesel options in Ireland. For a deeper look at savings and emissions, try Trinity College Dublin's TRACT App.

**Switching to an EV
isn't just good for the
planet; it's good for
your bottom line.**





Can I combine WAV and eSPSV grants for my application ?

If you plan on licensing an electric Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle, you can combine both grants for maximum funding. You cannot apply for a grant after a vehicle has been licensed, so if you wish to licence an electric WAV, ensure you have successfully applied for and received a Provisional Grant Offer for both schemes before proceeding to purchase and licence a vehicle.

Should you hold Provisional Grant Offers for both WAV26 and eSPSV26 to enable you to purchase an eWAV, the applicable PGO end date for your eWAV is the later of your WAV26 or eSPSV26 PGOs. If you choose to only proceed with one grant offer, the relevant end date only applies.

Section 2: 2026 SPSV Grant Updates

WAV26 Grant -
Opening!

The application portal for WAV26 will be open from January 12th to 19th.



Applicants to WAV26 can apply over the course of a week and everyone who applies in that week will have the same chance of receiving a Provisional Grant Offer.

In response to applicant feedback to ensure fairness, offers will now be **allocated entirely by lottery** and not first-come, first-served.

Grant offers and application status will be issued by mid-February; there is no need to contact NTA in the meantime.

eSPSV26 Grant - Opening!

The Department of Transport has confirmed that the hugely successful eSPSV Grant Scheme will open once again in February 2026. The eSPSV Scheme Terms & Conditions are subject to change by the Department of Transport who also provide the funding, which is then administered by NTA.

Current taxi, hackney and limousine licence holders may apply to receive funding under the eSPSV Grant Scheme to buy electric vehicles to replace their current vehicles. Applications to purchase electric vehicles for new wheelchair accessible taxi licences, wheelchair accessible hackney licences and limousines can also be made.



Applications for new electric saloon licences are not permitted

NTA will update all licence holders of the exact date in February when the Department will open the eSPSV26 grant scheme, as soon as we know. We advise anyone who is interested in participating in the Scheme, to keep an eye on the SPSV Latest News of the NTA website



Christmas and New Year Opening Hours



The NTA SPSV Information Line and Inspection Centres will be closed on the 25th and 26th December and on 1st January 2026.



NTA encourages you to keep up to date on industry matters by visiting the SPSV Latest News section of the website.



Wishing you a safe and peaceful festive season.